



BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health.

for the Year

1950.

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Assistant School Medical Officer.

13th September, 1951.



Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rutter & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year, 1950.

There was again a fall in the birth-rate during the year the total number of live-births being sixty-five compared with seventy-one for the previous year. The death rate remained much the same there being seventy-two deaths, compared with seventy-one the previous year. It is satisfactory to note there was only one death of an infant aged under one year.

Local Industries.- These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 776 persons.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.- Droughty weather conditions necessitated the curtailment of the supply at night for a short period during the months of July and August. Otherwise the spring supply and the surplus water from the Royal Air Force Borehole provided a good continuous supply to the town. The analysis of the water was satisfactory.

Due to the dense nature of the rock stratas, the sinking of the new borehole has not proceeded as quickly as anticipated. At the end of the year a depth of 321 feet had been reached. Boring will continue until the water bearing strata is reached and it is anticipated that the yield should be sufficient to meet present shortage and allow good reserves for future development.

Rivers and Streams.- During the year the Wear and Tees Fishery Board were successful in a prosecution case against the Northern Gas Board for polluting the River Tees with Gas liquor which killed a large number of fish. Council officials gave evidence in support of the prosecution. Otherwise, no report or evidence was received during the year of any other pollution or fouling of Rivers and Streams.

Refuse Tips.- The refuse tip is well removed from the town and nearest dwelling house. As the tip extends, the areas filled are levelled and covered with earth and sown with grass seed. The land available for tipping is quickly becoming filled and negotiations have been commenced for the purchase of additional land adjoining, which will be a natural extension of the present tip.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.- The Sewage Disposal Works continues to work satisfactorily and no complaint has been received from official or other quarters.

Work on the alteration to the Sewage Disposal Works with a view to the treatment of a certain amount of effluent from the Penicillin Factory, on an experimental basis, as agreed between the Council and the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, is temporarily held up due to non-delivery of essential valves and fittings. It is expected that work will be resumed in March, 1951.

Closet Accommodation.- One pail closet has been disused during the year and only 20 remain in the area. Most of these are serving houses in Confirmed Clearance Orders. Five privies serve outlying farms and cannot at present be connected to the sewers.

Housing. - Forty-two Council, and six private houses were completed and occupied during the year. (1)

Work is proceeding on a further sixty houses on the Montalbo Road Housing Site which will complete this Scheme of one hundred and two houses.

Land has been acquired at the Zetland Road Extension Site which will accommodate thirty-nine houses. Work on the Roads and Sewers is proceeding.

Further land has been acquired at Green Lane. Layout plans are being prepared and this site should accommodate approximately one hundred and forty houses.

There is an urgent need for further new houses. The number of families living in insanitary and overcrowded conditions is very large and the Council's list of applicants which is in the region of two hundred and forty tens to grow.

Section 11 Housing Act. 1936. - Demolition orders were made on two houses during the year. The Council agreed to re-house the occupiers and at the end of the year neither of the premises was vacated.

Section 12 Housing Act, 1936. - Two parts of buildings used as a dwelling house were the subject of Closing Orders during the year and undertakings were given not to use the premises for human habitation.

The following is the position regarding houses in Confirmed Clearance Areas at 31st December, 1950.

No. of Clearance Area	Date Area Confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupier	No. of Occupiers 31/12/50	No. Demolished 31/12/50	No. Vacant 31/12/50
1 to 6	27/8/35	36	46	Nil	36	Nil
8	-do-	5	6	Nil	3	2
9	-do-	2	2	Nil	Nil	2
1 to 9		43	54	Nil	39	4
10	12/3/38	2	2	2	Nil	Nil
11	-do-	2	3	Nil	Nil	2
12	-do-	3	3	2	Nil	2
13	-do-	3	3	3	Nil	Nil
14	-do-	7	10	6	1	Nil
15	-do-	5	5	Nil	2	3
16	-do-	5	12	5	Nil	2
17	-do-	7	7	7	Nil	Nil
18	-do-	2	2	2	Nil	Nil
19	-do-	13	18	17	Nil	1
20	-do-	3	3	2	Nil	1
21	-do-	2	2	1	1	1
22	-do-	7	7	7	Nil	Nil
10to22		61	77	54	4	12
GRAND TOTAL		104	131	54	43	16

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	42	13	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	32	19	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers premises)	5	12	-
Total .....	79	44	-

Cases in which Defects were found - Nil.

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork. - The August list from a local Glove Factory contains the names of five outworkers. All are resident in Barnard Castle, and are working under satisfactory conditions.

Common Lodging House. - There is one common lodging house situated in the Urban District. The keeper is registered. The premises are old and dilapidated and are not kept in strict compliance with the byelaws. Frequent visits of inspection are necessary.

Smoke Abatement. - No nuisances were observed nor were any complaints received.

Rodent Control. - A rodent operative is employed jointly with the Barnard Castle and Startforth Rural District Council's.

The Council sewers received a full and maintenance treatment. The refuse tip was treated four times and the depot and sewage works once during the year.

Seven treatments to business premises and ten treatments to domestic premises were undertaken.

The refuse tip tended to become infested on two occasions otherwise the infestations were small and good results were obtained with Ministry of Agriculture methods.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Ice Cream. - No ice cream is manufactured in the Urban District. Eighteen premises are registered for retail sale.

Milk Retailers. - Eight retailers operate within the area, four of these being licenced to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk, One retailer sells Tuberculin Tested Milk from his own farm.

Meat. - Slaughtering of animals for the Barnard Castle Urban, Rural Districts and the Startforth Rural District takes place at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Vere Road.

Ante mortem inspections of animals are carried out whenever possible.

Post mortem inspections are made of all animals at the time of slaughter or as soon after as is practicable.

Meat (Continued). - Inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector, holiday and sickness duty being undertaken by the two Sanitary Inspectors of the Barnard Castle Rural District Council. All three officers hold the Meat and Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The premises used as a Slaughterhouse are unsatisfactory and the conditions render it almost impossible to deal with the carcases in a hygienic manner.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

1st January to 31st December, 1950.

	Cattle excluding Cows				Sheep and Lambs				Pigs.		
	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	S.S.
Number Killed	1000	67	187	149	2	131	3847	205	14	71	27
Number Inspected	1000	67	187	149	2	131	3847	205	14	71	27
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	-	14	-	54	-	37	1	32	-	3	-
Carcase - some part condemned	420	22	74	63	-	3	50	33	1	23	-
Percentages of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	42	50.7	39.6	78.5	-	30.5	1.3	31.7	7.1	36.6	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	2	3	3	10	-	3	-	-	-	1	-
Carcase - some part condemned	66	8	32	16	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentages of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	6.8	16.4	18.7	17.4	-	2.3	-	-	-	2.8	-

Key to Diagram. -

C.C. - Animals from a Collecting Centre.

Cas. - Animals received as Casualties.

S.S. - Ministry of Food self supplying Scheme. (Cottages Pigs).

Food Poisoning. - No cases of food poisoning were notified under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	Number of Informal written notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of nuisances abated after notice.
<b>Dwelling Houses:</b>			
Structural defects	14	2	12
Overcrowding	4	4	-
Lodging Houses	1	-	1
Deposits of refuse & manure	1	-	1
Water closets	6	-	6
House drainage	19	1	18
Water Supply	3	-	3
Dustbins	15	1	14
Totals	<u>63</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>55</u>

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	560
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure - mid year 1950)	4,593
Number of inhabited houses	1,340
Rateable Value	£27,064
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£ 102

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum, Mr. Thomas Wake, for permission to include the following table.

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1950, compiled from the Bowes Museum.

Observation Station:	Bowes Museum.
Observer:	Thomas Wake, Curator & Secretary for the Trustees of the Bowes Museum.
Height of Gauge above Sea Level	550 feet.
<u>1950.</u>	<u>Ins.</u>
January	1.67
February	5.65
March	1.12
April	2.44
May	1.59
June	.90
July	3.10
August	4.96
September	3.89
October	1.50
November	5.18
December	2.04
Total	<u>34.04</u>
Average 5 yrs. 1945-50	32.59
	34.04
	26.29
	30.49
	38.85
	33.29
	1950
	1949
	1948
	1947
	1946

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total	Male	Female
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate )	60	29	31
	Illegitimate )	5	3	2

Live birth rate - 14.2 per 1,000 home population. Corresponding rate for the 148 smaller towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) - 16.7.

		Total	Male	Female
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate )	1	-	1
	Illegitimate )	-	-	-

Still birth rate - (per 1,000 home population) - 0.22. Corresponding rate for the 148 smaller towns - 0.38.

	Total	Male	Female
<u>Deaths</u>	72	34	38

Death rate (per 1,000 home population) - 15.7.  
for 148 smaller towns - 11.6.

Death rate of Infants Under One Year. -

	Male	Female
Total	1	-
Legitimate	1	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Death rate of Infants Under One Year. -

All Infants (per 1,000 live births) 15.4  
148 smaller towns 29.4.

Causes of Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	-	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Cancer (all types)	-	10	10
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	3	5	8
Coronary disease, angina	5	1	6
Other Heart Disease	11	12	23
Other Circulatory disease	3	4	7
Bronchitis	1	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	1	-	1
All other causes	3	1	4
	<u>34</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>72</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One hundred and ninety-six notifications of infectious diseases were received during the year the majority of these being cases of measles and whooping cough. The measles epidemic commenced in May and continued until the end of June. The age groups most affected were children between the ages of 3 - 5 years and 5 - 10 years. Most of the whooping cough cases occurred in the last two months of the year.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever in the town still continues to be remarkably low only one case being notified this year. This is the lowest number recorded in the last ten years. For the fourth year in succession no case of Diphtheria was notified.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning) during the year.-

	No.	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis not confirmed	Total Cases
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	1	-	-	1
Erysipelas	2	1	-	2
Measles	147	-	-	147
Whooping Cough	45	-	-	45

Analysis of the Total Cases (confirmed) in Age Groups.

	Under one Year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Measles	2	34	47	61	2	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	6	11	20	1	1	-	1

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years.

	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Scarlet Fever	11	7	2	27	2	1
Diphtheria	-	5	-	-	-	-
Measles	11	5	50	60	2	147
Whooping Cough	9	-	18	9	5	45
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	1	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	2	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1	-	2

Diphtheria Immunisation.- There was an increase in the number of children immunised against diphtheria compared with the previous year. Facilities are provided at the Child Welfare Centre for the immunisation of children aged under five years and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year  
ended 31st December, 1950.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1950.

Age at date of final injection.		Total under 15.
0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	
57	13	70

Number given reinforcing injection - 19.

Tuberculosis.

Four new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year comprising, three males aged 10 months, 48 years, and 53 years respectively and one female aged 24 years.

New Cases

Deaths.

Age Periods	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
15	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	1	-	-	4	-	-	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Staff.-- The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer. A grant is made to his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are whole-time officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and portions by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals.-- There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity or Children in the district.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Diseases Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities.-- Upon the coming into operation on the 5th July, 1948 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 responsibility for the provision of ambulance facilities was taken over by the County Council.

I am again indebted to the County Medical Officer's ambulance department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year. It will be noted that there has been a considerable increase in the work carried out by the service, particularly in the number of sitting cases carried compared with the previous year (876).

TABLE A.

	<sup>#</sup> Bishop Auckland (No.14) Control Area.	Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.
Ambulance Controls	1	Nil
Clerk-telephonists	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots	5	2
Ambulances	15	2
Sitting-case cars	Nil	Nil
Driver-Attendants	39	4

\*Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area and the details given under this head include the details relating to the Urban and Rural Districts. The work shown in Table B, below is that undertaken by all vehicles in the Control Area in connection with patients residing in the areas shown.

TABLE B.

Area	No. of journeys made	No. of calls made	No. of patients carried		Total Mileage
			Stretcher cases	Sitting cases	Total
Barnard Castle U.D. and R.D.	748	1396	353	1190	1543
North Riding of Yorkshire	205	120	53	79	132
TOTALS	953	1516	406	1269	1675
					53348

The Ambulance Control for the Area is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed over the 24 hours by a team of four Clerk-telephonists.

Mass Radiography Survey.- In September, a Mass Radiography Survey was carried out in Barnard Castle, the Unit being installed at the Richardson Memorial Home. Certain sessions were allotted to the staff of Glaxo Laboratories Factory in Barnard Castle, and the remaining sessions were available to the general public residing in the Urban and Rural Districts. One session was held in the Barnard Castle Boy's School. All persons who attended for X-Ray were photographed on miniature film and those who showed any signs of disease were recalled for a further photograph on large film. In his report, the Medical Director expressed satisfaction with the results obtained although the total number of the population who availed themselves of the opportunity to be X-Rayed was somewhat disappointing.

I append below details of the statistical report relating to the sessions available to the general public:-

Barnard Castle Combined.

Total Radiographed	1249
Total passed on miniature film	1190
Total recalled for large film	59
Total failed to attend for large film	3
Total passed on large film	29
Total diagnosed on large film	13
Total recalled for investigation	14
Total remaining under observation	Nil.

Analysis of Tuberculous Cases.

Category "A" Active Disease 3 (0.24% of total X-Rayed)

(I) Newly Discovered	3 (0.24% of total X-Rayed)
(II) Previously Diagnosed	-

Category "B" Inactive Disease 16

(I) Newly Discovered	14
(II) Previously Diagnosed	2

In addition to the above, seven cases of chronic non-tuberculous defects were found.

Nursing Arrangements.- Under Section 25 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. By an agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, the Durham County Council have delegated this aspect of their functions to the Association, which now operates under the general supervision of the County Medical Officer. This arrangement has necessitated the integration and co-ordination by the County Nursing Association of the services formerly provided by individual district nursing associations and the transfer of administration to the County Association.

The arrangements whereby the domiciliary midwifery service in certain areas of the County was provided on an agency basis by district nursing associations are continued under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the County Nursing Association acting as the agent.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area and for the Startforth district by two nurses resident in the town. General, midwifery and maternity cases are nursed.

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress, Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) chiefly for maternity cases.

#### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee.- The Committee of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officers reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor Mr. F. L. White and Mr. E. Dixon, Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Mrs. Rutter & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.